sex have access to education of a comparable quality.

Maintenance of a broad commonality of standards in all the schools of the country has been sought to be achieved by the following ways:—

(i) Making available to all the schools a broadly uniform pattern of syllabi|texbooks designed on the basis of National Curricular Framework for elementary, secondary and higher secondary education brought out by the N.C.E.R.T.

(ii) Requiring all the schools sending their students for Board Examinations to be affiliated to the concerned State Board, the CBSE or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, as the case may be and thereby to follow the syllabi|textbooks prescribed by the respective Board designed on the basis of the National Curricular Framework.

(iii) Improving the physical facilities and other educational inputs in schools through a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes.

The Education Commission (1964-66) and the National Policy on Education (1986) heve recommended that measures should be taken in the direction of the Common School System. The Neighbourhood School Concept is one of the steps to be taken for realization of this goal. The Government would like to bring the existing schools under the Neighbourhood School Concept with a view to effecting egalitarianism in school education.

Setting up of Autonomous Agency for Defence Exports

1540. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Qunestion 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for setting up of an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if no progress has been made; what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) Based on a decision 'in principle' in 1989, to set up an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports, certain preliminary steps had been initiated for the constitution of such an agency. In the interim period, various measures of liberalisations in policy and procedures of exports of defence stores have also been carried out and the existing production agencies such as Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Ordnance Factory Board have also been permitted to engage in direct exports. In the light of these measures and the progress achieved in defence exports, subsequent to 1989, a final decision on constituting an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports in under the consideration of the Government.

Reproduction of T.V. Serial "Race to Save the Planet"

1541 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to reproduce the English T.V. Serial entitled "RACE TO SAVE THE PLANET" in Hindi and other regional languages;

(b) if so, what is the total amount involved in this Serial and which are the National and International Educational Research Centres participating| helping the U.G.C.; and

(c) by when the above mentioned serial is expected to be telecast on Doordarshan National Network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The University Grants Commission has entered into an agreement with WGBH

Educational Foundation, Boston, USA to co-produce a ten-part T.V. Series entitled 'Race to Save the Planet'. As per the terms of the agreement, the Commission will contribute equivalent of US $300,000 consisting of equivalent of US $ 200,000 in service and US $ 100,000 in foreign exchange to be paid in four equal instalments of US $ 25000 each at different stages of completion of the project. The UGC has also decided, in principle, to bring out the T.V. serial in Hindi and Tamil. The cost of producing the Hindi and Tamil versions of the serial has not been finalised. The English version of the serial is likely to be telecast from September, 1990.

Grant of Rs. 840—1040 scale to Senior Scientific Assistants in Defence R and D Organisation, Pune

1542. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Arbitration Board under the Chairmanship of Justic Jain had given its Award in August, 1985 granting the scale of Rs. 840—1040 with effect from 22nd September 1982 to Senior Scientific Assistants (SSA) in Defence R and D Organisation, Pune;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Defence had decided to implement the Award w.e.f. 1st January, 1988 instead of 22nd September, 1982;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), New Delhi had ordered in its judgement on August 10, 1989 to implement the Award with effect from 22nd September 1982 alongwith 10 per-cent interest on arrears; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Award was for granting higher pay scales to four categories of staff, including Senior Scientific Assistants in the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

(b) and (c) Implementation of the Award, in respect of the four categories of staff from 22.9.82 to 31.12.87 involved an outgo of Rs. 12.5 crores and, thereafter, an annual recurring expenditure of approx. Rs. 2,.80 crores. Because of the serious financial difficulties involved, it was decided to implement the Award w.e.f. 1.1.88.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) The Government filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court for stay of the operation of the order dated 10-8-1989 of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi. The Supreme Cour, *vide* its order dated 3-8-1990, has stayed the operation of the Tribunal's order granting relief with effect from 22.9.82.

Facilities to ex-servicemen

1543. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1990 and state what are the other facilities besides the one rank one pension, being granted to ex-servicemen this year?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Besides the ongoing effort to provide review to pre 1-1-86 ex-Servicemen retirees the various existing schemes for the rehabilitation and welfare of ex-Servicemen are being closely monitored for effective implementation.